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(71) Applicant: OLYMPUS OPTICAL CO LTD

(72) Inventor: TAKAHASHI HAJIME

(54) VARIABLE PINHOLE MECHANISM

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(57) Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a compact pinhole mechanism which can continuously and optionally vary the size of the aperture diameter of a pinhole while holding the center of the aperture of the pinhole always at a fixed position.

SOLUTION: This mechanism consists of 1st and 2nd levers 10 and 12 which have tips supported movably, a pinhole forming means which is provided between the tips of those levers 10 and 12 and can form the pinhole having a desired aperture diameter, a 3rd lever 18 which moves the tips of the 1st and 2nd levers 10 and 12, and a laminate type piezoelectric actuator 20 which drives and controls the 3rd lever 18. The pinhole forming means is equipped with 1st and 2nd thin plates 14 and 16 which have 1st and 2nd triangularly-sectioned cut parts 14a and 16a formed atop, and the base ends of the 1st and 2nd thin plates are fitted to the tips of the 1st and 2nd levers 10 and 12 so as to form a pin hole in a square shape by putting the 1st and 2nd cut parts 14a and 16a opposite one over the other.

